

RESOLUTION No. 16-358

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama are apprised that the life of Deacon Dan Tibbs, Jr. will be honored during his home going ceremony, to be held at Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church on Friday, May 27, 2016; and,

WHEREAS, Dan Tibbs, Jr. was born December 9, 1922 to the late Dan Tibbs, Sr. and the late Pearl Etta Moore Tibbs on Quarter Mountain in Harvest, Alabama. His family consisted of 8 sisters and 4 brothers. At the age of 2, Mr. Tibbs and his family moved from Quarter Mountain to a 190-acre farm in Toney, Alabama, currently known as the Anderson Hills Subdivision. He assisted his father with purchasing prime land in the Indian Creek community located west of Alabama 53 (Jordan Lane) and is presently a part of the I-565 junction. In memory of his family's rich heritage and excellence in community service, an access road was named in honor of Dan Tibbs, Sr. The Tibbs family sold the land located on this road and Dan, Jr. helped owners to secure homes by using his business resources. He became a salesman for Jim Walter Homes and purchased more property north of his father's land, off of Nick Fitchard Road. On this property, he farmed cotton, corn, truck patches, and gardens. He raised pigs, cows and chickens. Thus, he was able to create labor opportunities for other families; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Tibbs began school at the age of 6 at Center School in Jeff, Alabama. He rode the first bus for blacks in Madison County. In 1942, he graduated 12th grade from Toney High School. In 1943 he enrolled at Tennessee A&I College in the School of Agriculture. He transferred to Alabama A&M University in 1945 and graduated in 1948 with a B.S. Degree in Agriculture. He was on the Dean's list, served as Vice-President of the Student Body, President of the Agriculture Club and the Library Club and was also a member of the Masons. He worked at the school's dairy farm and poultry yard. He was a full time member of the College Choir and the Male Glee Club; and,

WHEREAS, from 1948-1952 he taught Veterans of World War II Farm Training and General Continuing Education, effectively reaching 33 Veterans, and he also began a choral group with the Veterans. In 1960 he was hired by the Madison County Board of Education as a math teacher at the Indian Creek Elementary School. In 1964, he became the principal for 3 years. During his tenure, he organized Boy Scout troops, 4-H Clubs, and winning basketball/track teams for boys and girls. He returned to Alabama A&M University and earned a degree in School Administration. However, integration forced him to move to the New Market Junior School in New Market, Alabama as an Assistant Principal. His enhanced education credentials merited him a position as an Adult Education Supervisor/Teacher and CETA (Comprehensive Education Training Act) Supervisor. With this leadership, he went into communities and encouraged his peers and students' parents to return

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to the classroom and earn a GED. His wife, Virginia, was among those who graduated; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Tibbs was baptized at the Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church in 1939. In 1944 he became a choir director and developed the music ministry for the church. He trained singers and musicians to execute music appropriate for worship and other occasions. He and his father, Mr. Dan Tibbs, Sr. shared a common spiritual role as Deacons. His name and his father's name are listed on the cornerstone of the old (founded 1869) and current (1969/2001) edifices. Deacon Tibbs has given the greatest years of his life (73 years) fostering the move of the church's land purchases and building programs. His name and his land were used as earnest collateral for these efforts. His love and commitment has touched the lives of 3 pastors: Reverends James Townsend, Michael Hartwell and Timothy Mark Rainey. He served as Deacon Board Secretary for 20 years, Building Fund Secretary for 32 years, Director of Baptist Training Union and Young People's Conference for 25 years, Choir Director for 53 years, and Host for the choir radio broadcast for 10 years; and,

WHEREAS, from 1965-1966 he supervised the voters' registration drive for Madison, Lauderdale, Marshall, and Jackson Counties for the NAACP, resulting in the registration of 1,000 black citizens and 100 white citizens; and,

WHEREAS, in 1996 he suffered a massive heart attack, survived a triple bypass and made a miraculous recovery, after which he continued his contracting business under the "Tibbs Beautification Service" for landscape, backhoe, truck rental and grass cutting; and,

WHEREAS, music is the heartbeat of his soul. All of his brothers were preachers but he answered the call of teacher and lover of the gospel through music ministry. He continued to serve as a supporter of the music ministry of Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church and trained and directed a choir at Phoenix Chapel AME Church in Prospect, Tennessee. His personal attributes and philosophy manifest themselves as he shares his wealth of wisdom and knowledge by counseling men, women, and children from all walks of life. His legacy lives through his 4 children, 9 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. He remained vibrant, alert, accessible and positive. His life experiences continued well into the 21st century as an illuminating beacon of guided hope for his family, his church and his community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, express to his children, grandchildren, family, relatives and friends their deepest sympathy in the loss of Deacon Dan Tibbs, Jr.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that even as we mourn the passing of Dan Tibbs, Jr., we are resigned to the all-wise heavenly Father's will.

ADOPTED this the 26th day of May, 2016.

President of the City Council of the
City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 26th day of May, 2016.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama